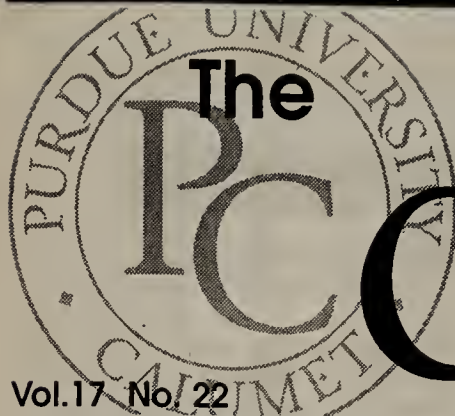




Vol. 17 No. 22

Opinion

U.S. officials should face consequences for drunk driving
See page 5

Sports

Predictions made for the women's basketball conference tourney
See page 8

Entertainment

"Office Space" brings the working man's dream of revenge to the big screen
See page 6

The Chronicle

Monday, March 1, 1999

Office Space
WORK SUCKS

New grading scale could be a plus (or minus) to GPA

SONYA GIBSON
Staff Writer

PUC's Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee will vote soon on a proposal to change the grading system.

The Lafayette campus proposed the change to all Purdue institutions. They must all be in favor in order for the adoption to take place.

This proposition will mean changes in the system used now. Due to this, the system will take quite a while to implement. The grades will change to plus or minus letter grades. Purdue currently

judges a passing score by a straight letter. This new system will change a requirement from a C or better to a C- or better. Grade indexes will remain the same, as will scales for academic probation and dismissal.

The current grading scale puts a student who receives 89 percent in the same category with one who gets a 79.6, a B. This new scale will help future employers as well as students determine what type of student they are, according to Dennis Barbour, head of the English and philosophy department.

Those who work hard for a high B are differentiated from those who

just got by, he added. This can make a big difference in the job market, he said.

Shomir Sil, the head of the school of management, said it might even take two or three years before the university begins using this system.

The new grading process is thought to be a benefit to professors. According to Sil, the use of this type of grading will make it much easier for professors to give an accurate grade.

If a student is getting an 89 percent, there is no longer a decision

See Grading, Page 3

LASS discusses change in course requirement

RICK PEREGOY
Staff Writer

The school of liberal arts and social sciences met Monday, Feb. 8 to discuss the proposal of new courses.

"There is a lot involved with the addition of a new course at PUC," Cynthia Lyles, secretary to the dean of liberal arts and social sciences said.

The school senate, chaired by Thomas Roach, a communications professor, must first approve any proposed new course. After receiving the approval of the school senate, it must be approved by the university senate and then forwarded to West Lafayette for the final approval.

"West Lafayette has the final approval because they maintain the master course list for all regional campuses," she said.

The most recently added courses at PUC will be Spanish Level I and Level II, SPAN 106 and 107, respec-

tively.

These courses are additional requirements for students seeking a degree in Restaurant, Hotel, Institutional and Tourism Management. Students in RHIT must receive a "C" or better in these courses to avoid having to repeat the course or courses. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement, said Roach.

"The faculty elect the senators who deal with policy and also curriculum issues," he said.

Another course discussed for proposal in the history department is "Europe in the Nineteenth Century."

An amendment to prerequisites also was discussed at the meeting.

Changing the prerequisite for Mass Communication Law (COM 352), from Electronic Media (COM 202), to Introduction to Mass Media (COM 201), is a possibility. The change in the prerequisite will enable more people to take the class that is currently limited to a majority of students in the broadcast sequence, Roach added.

Possible new classes

- Spanish Level I and Level II, (SPAN 106 and 107)
- Europe in the Nineteenth Century

Member promotes A.D.A.P.T.

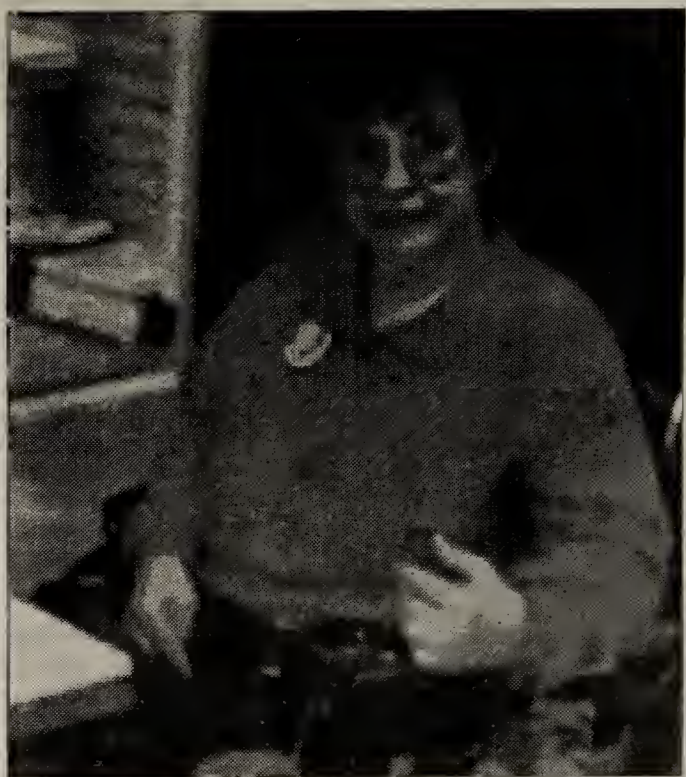


Photo by Adam Quarles

PUC student Andrea Murray mans the table in the conference of SFLC for A.D.A.P.T. (American Disabilities for Attendant Programs Today).

Campus activity continues in spite of bomb threat

MARTI TRGOVICH
Managing Editor

A bomb threat was called in to campus Thursday evening.

However, the threat did not hinder normal university activity.

The information center in the SFLC building received a call at approximately 5:45 p.m.. The male caller said that a building on campus was going to explode in about an hour.

The caller did not specify which building.

Although the university's Bomb Alert Squad was called, there was not much they could do, according to Wes Lukoshus, director of university relations.

"Short of checking the entire campus, there wasn't a whole

lot that could be done," he said.

Lukoshus said university police have traced the call to a non-residential location in Mokense, Ill., a Chicago suburb.

The PUC Police Department is working with the Mokense Police Department to find the caller.

This was the first bomb threat since fall. A bomb threat last April closed the Gyte building for several hours while the Bomb Alert Squad and the Hammond Police Department investigated. No bomb was found.

Lukoshus said no one knows if this bomb threat was related to the other incidents.

"There's no way to tell at this time," he said.

South Carolina engineering students build cities with legos

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Walk into the main lobby of USC's engineering school this morning, and you're likely to see some bleary-eyed students.

Since 10 a.m. Sunday, teams of engineering students have been working shifts to see who can build the best city - out of LEGOs.

Four groups of students - chemical engineers, civil engineers, mechanical engineers and freshmen

- were given a big pile of colorful LEGO pieces and 24 hours to build and explain their design.

Beyond the basic rules, the contestants didn't know exactly what they were getting into.

"It looks like somebody took a bunch of LEGOs nobody wanted, put them in a dump truck and brought 'em here," freshman builder Shawn Lowe said.

"We might have gotten leftover parts because we were freshmen," he joked later.

All the students got the same basic load of parts, but there was some variation.

They were free to trade among teams. That led to building strategies. The freshmen talked about holding back on a stylized plastic, figuring it might be valuable to one of the other teams.

Their assignment was to build a "city of the future" from the blocks.

These cities would reflect their knowledge of urban design and architecture, along with details of

serving city residents through roads, parks and other support structures.

The teams were free to plan in advance, but that had limited strategy. They didn't know what pieces they would have until the LEGOs were dumped out of boxes.

"We basically had to figure out what we had and go from there," said Michele Price, a senior and member of the chemical engineering team.

As they began work Sunday, the

chemical engineers group started working on a fusion plant to power the city and on a tower and building that would serve as their city centerpiece.

Back at the freshman table, Erica von Shenk and Ryan Steinbock were working on a space port. That was in contrast to a drawbridge apparatus that looked like it belonged to an old castle moat.

If this LEGO competition some-

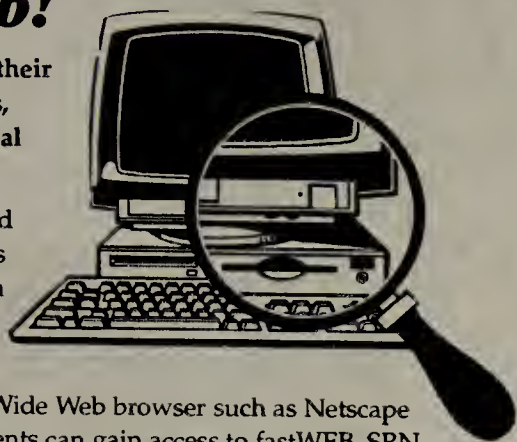
See Legos, Page 3

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Search for scholarships on the web!

A question students and their parents continue to ask is, "How can I find additional funding for college?"

Our Office of Financial Aid recommends that students search for scholarships via five, FREE web-based Scholarship Searches!



Using an Internet World Wide Web browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer, students can gain access to fastWEB, SRN (Scholarship Resource Network) Express, ExPAN, Sallie Mae/CASHE, and Purdue University Calumet's own Scholarship Search. Students can view these searches from their own computer or a computer work station located anywhere on campus that has access to the Internet.

fastWEB

fastWEB (Financial Aid Search via the WEB) is the largest and most complete scholarship search on the Internet. It provides access to a searchable database of more than 275,000 private sector scholarships, fellowships, grants and student loans. fastWEB creates a personal profile that matches a student's specific skills, abilities and interests to scholarships available on the database. Students should plan on setting aside about 20 minutes to go through the entire profile.

SRN Express

SRN (Scholarship Resource Network) Express offers listings of scholarships, fellowships and grants for undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral education. The SRN database lists mostly portable, private-sector, non-need-based aid.

ExPAN

ExPan is a free web version of the College Board's FUND FINDER scholarship database. The College Board's database contains listings of scholarships, fellowships, loans, internships and other types of financial aid programs from 3,300 national, state, public and private sources. The database is updated annually.

Sallie Mae/CASHE

Sallie Mae's Online Scholarship provides free access to the College Aid Sources for Higher Education (CASHE) database of numerous scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans, internships, competitions and work study programs sponsored by more than 3,600 organizations. Students, parents and high school guidance counselors have used CASHE since 1979. Sallie Mae, which services one in three outstanding federal student loans, is the nation's largest source of funding and servicing support for education loans for students and their parents.

PUC Search

Purdue Calumet's Office of Financial Aid provides free WEB access to its own scholarships, as well as many local and national scholarships. Our database contains information on approximately 100 Purdue Calumet-specific scholarships, as well as numerous scholarships and fellowships from outside agencies and organizations. Applications for many of these scholarships are available online.

For more info, assistance...

Accessing any of the above scholarship searches is easy. Just direct your favorite WEB browser to Purdue University Calumet's Office of Financial Aid's WEB site at:

<http://esc.calumet.purdue.edu/finaid>

Then click on "Scholarship Searches."

Further information about the scholarship search services and other financial aid information can be obtained by visiting the Office of Financial Aid, located in LAWSHE 130,

e-mailing the Office at:
finaid@calumet.purdue.edu

or by phoning: 219/989-2301
(ext. 2301 from campus phones)...

At a glance

around campus

Lyrics for lunch

Call Prof. GERALYN FARLEY at 989-2714 (Ext. 2714) for more information about attending weekly Wednesday presentations in the "Lyrics for Lunch" series featuring the following musical themes:

- March 3, Bebop into the 1940s
 - March 10, Swinging 1930s
 - March 24, Untouchables, 1920s
- Reservations are required.

Book discussion

The book "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day" by Pearl Cleage will be discussed 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, in the Founders' Study on the third floor of SFLC during the regular Books and Coffee meeting. The book may be purchased from the Calumet Campus Shop.

Society for Human Resource Management meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management will meet Thursday, March 11, in GYTE-121.

Chocolate tasting

Taste of Chocolate '99, which offers chocolate delights from Northwest Indiana restaurants, confectioners and caterers to attendees will be held 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 21. A baking contest, open to the public will determine the best chocolate cake and dessert entries. The fund-raiser benefits The Caring Place. The event will be held at the WaterBird Lakeside Banquet Center in Chesterton. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door and may be purchased at The Caring Place, 511 Randle St. in Valparaiso. Call Charlotte Conjelko at (219) 464-0840 for information.

Rotary scholarship applications available

The Rotary Club of Munster now has applications available for 2000-2001 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships. The scholarships provide for study abroad in any of more than 150 countries. Applicants must have completed at least two years of university or college work or have a secondary school education and have been employed in a recognized vocation for at least two years.

For an application, call Marcia Carle at (219) 852-4222 or write to her at 200 Russell St., Hammond, IN 46320. Completed applications must be submitted by April 1.

Child abuse workshop

Margaret Scissom, senior staff consultant with Tri-City Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center Inc., will host the workshop "Child Abuse Identification and Prevention" 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at the Munster Public Library, 8701 Calumet Ave. The session is targeted to help teachers, day care staff, baby-sitters, youth workers and anyone in contact with groups of children.

Call (800) 398-7050 or (219) 392-6011 to make reservations or for further information.

National Lakeshore lifeguard jobs available

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is soliciting applications for at least three temporary lifeguards. Contact the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Personnel Office, 1100 North Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304. For further information, call (219) 926-7561, Ext. 441.

Hospice volunteers needed

Harbor Light Hospice of Merrillville is seeking dedicated individuals to fill a variety of volunteer roles. Volunteer opportunities include visiting patients in private homes or nursing homes, providing clerical support in the Merrillville office, making crafts for patients, helping with activities for nursing home residents and assisting families working through grief.

For more information call (219) 793-1200 or (800) 237-4242.

Recycle household batteries

The Lake Michigan District Recycling Program has donated two recycling bins for household batteries. One bin is located in the atrium at the southeast entrance of the Gyte building. Please bring in your old household batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, and 9V) for recycling.

Psi Chi meeting convenes Fridays

Psi Chi, the national honor society of psychology, and the Psychology Club will hold meetings every second Friday of the month in SFLC-321 at 4 p.m. Special events will be advertised on bulletins throughout the campus. New members are welcome.

For more information, call Dr. Anne Edwards at 989-2863 or Becky Erenberg at 845-5573.

Quote of the week

'And so we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.'

-F. Scott Fitzgerald
1896-1940

The Chronicle

The Chronicle - Purdue University Calumet
Hammond, Indiana 46323-2094

(219) 989-2547 * (219) 989-2039 * Fax: (219) 989-2770

E-mail: chronicle@xpc.calumet.purdue.edu
or campus cc:mail - chronicle

Online:
<http://xpc.calumet.purdue.edu/~chronicle>

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Working nine to five is an education itself

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

College is great. You get to hang out with your friends, determine your own schedule and sleep late if you want.

It's different when you get your first full-time job. You might have to move away from friends. And forget sleeping in. You have to get up and go to work.

Making this transition from school to work involves many new experiences. Some (your first real paycheck) are easier to handle than others (a scary new work environment).

"A lot of people think it's over when the job offer has been made," said Gloria Campbell, director of career counseling at Johnson County (Kan.) Community College. "But really, it's only starting. It's the beginning of their professional career."

And there is a transition to be made. Just ask Adrienne Miskell, a newly hired computer programmer with the Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Mo. Miskell, 23, graduated in December from the University of Northern Iowa and started at Cerner a week later.

At first she was nervous. After she went through orientation her head was so clogged with confusing health plans and benefit options she felt clueless.

The switch from school to work was eased by a friend on the inside. She joined Cerner at the urging of one of her northern Iowa friends, Michael D.W. Gabrick, who also works at the company.

Still adjusting to full-time work is difficult. "In college you basically got spoon-fed all the information you needed," Miskell said. "Here they expect you to go find it."

But there are a lot of good things about her new job, too. Money, for one.

"Now I can actually have a budget and buy things," she said. Say, there's another difference from college.

"The bills!" she said. "There's more of them. ... And in college when you got a paycheck, it was easy just to go out and blow it. Now I have to say, 'OK, this paycheck's for rent, this one's for my car note ...'"

Another adjustment she's faced: having to go to bed like (gasp!) a responsible adult.

"Now I know why my mom was so tired when she got home from work."

Such discoveries are common, said Lisa Leroux-Smith, director of the business and engineering career services partnership at the University of Kansas.

"I truly believe (new workers) have no clue what they're getting into," she said. "They are prepared at the university level ... but the world of work is completely different. In the real world they have to be more accountable for themselves; they have to be more self-directed."

And they don't know how to do that a lot of times. I didn't. It was baptism by fire."

For students at the University of Kansas, there is a way to ease the transition from school to work. Hawk Talk, a networking program offered by the KU Alumni Association, connects alumni mentors to KU students who belong to the association. The program helps students get advice or shadow a mentor at work. This spring the association also will offer all students its "Success Seminar." Topics include how to use your first paycheck, how to pay off student loans and credit card bills, as well as interview and resume tips.

"Now I know why my mom was so tired when she got home from work."

Adrienne Miskell, computer programmer

Grading

Continued from page 1

about whether it will be an A or B. The answer will be a B+ with the new system.

It's a definite way of grading, Barbour said. He mentioned that Purdue is one of the few universities that don't use this type of system.

Linda Mura, a behavioral sciences professor, said this could help or hurt a student. The above scenario is an example of how it can hurt.

If a student is showing their college transcripts to a potential employer, the difference between a B+ and an A- might make a difference in who they pick for the job. Mura

also said the professor has the option of whether to use this in their classrooms. They are not bound to the same grading method as other professors.

Although she is in favor of the proposal, she doesn't think it's a necessary step right now. "Why do things have to change? I think it's great now," she added.

Barbour used the system at Indiana State University and said it gave "fine, clear distinctions" for the grades.

He believes the change is positive, and said he will make it mandatory for his students.

Sil said he would like students to have the opportunity to vote on the change.

"Why do things have to change? I think it's great now."

Linda Mura, professor

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

PUC police beat

2/16/98 - 2/22/98



Wednesday, Feb. 17, 12:17 a.m. Property damage traffic accident involving one vehicle in the P-4 parking lot east of the Anderson building. Vehicle involved was a security pickup truck.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. A staff member reported injuring her back while moving boxes in the enrollment services center in Lawshe Hall. Victim transported to St. Margaret's by Hammond Fire Department ambulance.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. a student reported leaving her purse in a classroom in the CLO building. Purse was later found and returned to the owner with all contents accounted for except \$10 was missing.

Thursday, Feb. 18, 1:45 p.m. A student reported leaving her wallet next to a pay phone in the hallway by the computer building. When the victim found the wallet later in a different location, \$85 was missing.

Saturday, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m. A staff member reported damage to his locker, possibly in an attempt to gain entry, in the men's locker room in the SAS building. There was no entry, and nothing was missing.

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

Legos

Continued from page 1

what resembles kids play, there's a good reason.

One of the major efforts of the USC College of Engineering these days is to try to reach students all the way down to first grade and help bring them along as engineers. One of the goals is to help supply the state's need of a creative force of scientists.

To hear Dean Craig Rogers tell it, every young kid is an engineer

until somebody steers them elsewhere.

If you don't believe that, he said, watch children play with blocks, build roads in the sand and yes, make model cities.

Rogers said it is a mistake to wait until students are nearly out of high school and then rush them with opportunities in engineering.

"Engineering is all about problem solving and creative thinking," Rogers said. "That starts as kids and never stops."

Help Wanted

Centier Bank is currently searching for a Project Coordinator to join our aggressive marketing team. Centier Bank has 25 locations throughout Northwest Indiana, representing 13 communities, with more than 400 associates. Centier is committed to preserving hometown banking and family values. Prior banking experience is not required.



Marketing Project Coordinator

Centier's Project Coordinator is an entry level position, which is responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of the bank's marketing plan. This person will act as Project Coordinator in a variety of marketing and public relations activities, product development, as well as database and direct marketing. Additional responsibilities will include promotional writing, media planning and advertising design. The ideal candidate will have a degree (or be near completion of a degree) in Marketing, Communications or related field with some experience in marketing through internships or other work. Skills in desktop publishing and basic computer knowledge are a plus. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are required, as well as the ability to handle multiple projects.

Send Resume to:

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Centier Bank
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Crown Point, IN 46307-0109
Phone: 219.662.3333 ext. 350
E-mail: lstrickl@centier.com



Attention All Students

There's going to be a Majors Fair

Can't decide on a major? Come, come to the fair, the Majors Fair. Let us work our magic on you. We can help you decide.



Early Childhood?

Math?

Biology?

Management?

Elementary Education?

Psychology?

Chemistry?

Sociology?

Information Systems?

Engineering?

Nursing?

Majors Fair

March 2, 1999
Time: 10:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Library Building Concourse

The Chronicle

est. 1983

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Marti Trgovich, Managing Editor

Michael D. Stewart, Distribution Manager

J.B. Lyles, Sports Editor

Gabriel Chaddock, Business Assistant

Christopher Kosovich, Human Resources

Joan Musak, Assistant Production Manager

Grading us does not teach us

University officials are discussing changing our grading system to a plus-minus scale. Instead of just an A, we could break it down further into A+, A or A- and so on to refine the grading system even more. There are pros and cons of this grading system, and we will discuss some of them here so students will be more informed and can voice their opinion to administrators.

Lafayette, our parent university, uses this system. However, that should not be used as justification for us. We need to analyze the students on this campus and how they feel; just because Lafayette uses this system, is not an automatic reason to make it the system here.

Although this system would refine our grades even further, it is also another way to divide students. College life is becoming more and more fiercely competitive each year, which is an argument for and against this system. We could either use it, and make the competition tougher, or we could stay with our current single grade system and let students focus more on learning and less on grades. If everyone begins competing just for the A+, it is not necessarily a good thing.

Fighting for the highest grade pushes us, but only so far. When we all want the A+ just so we can say we got the highest grade, we forget why we wanted it, and what it stands for. Getting the highest grade is supposed to mean that you worked the hardest, and know the most, but if all the students are working a little harder only to get their letter grade higher, then it is likely that they are not learning much at all. There are students who fail classes and learn more than students who get straight A's.

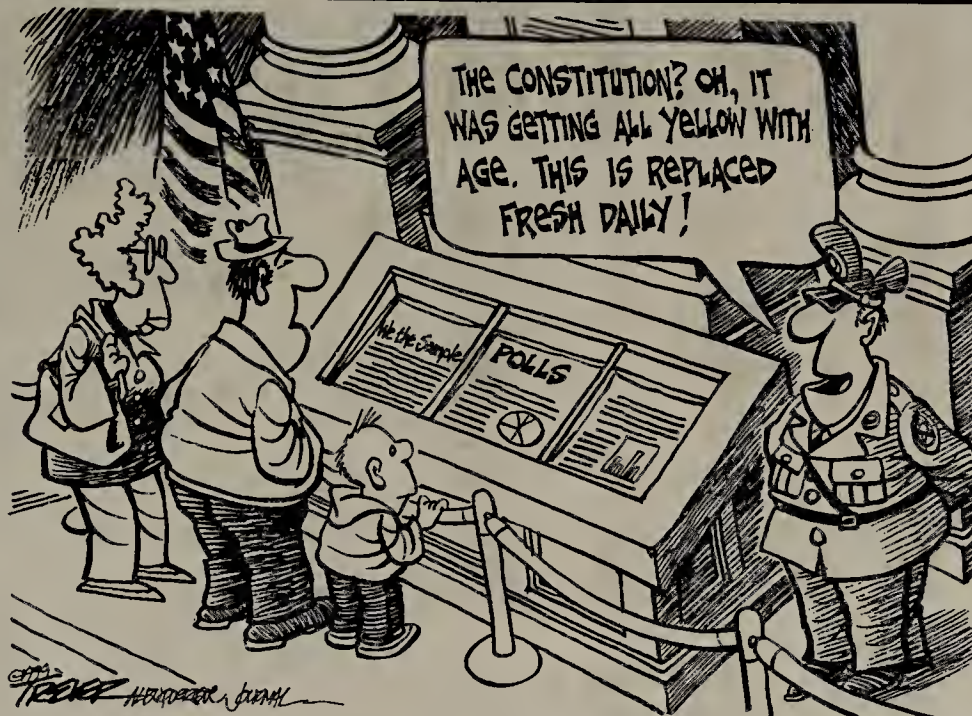
We need to focus less on the grade, and more on the concepts of learning. We need to figure out how we can connect the thought processes and information from one class to another. Students today already focus on how high and low they have to go in a class grade wise to pass, we need to find solutions that will make us all focus on knowledge, instead of how much needs to be done. We want quality, not quantity. A student can memorize every chapter in their book and spit it back for the teacher and the test, however, they more than likely cannot process the information into problem solving skills or connect it to their daily lives. We are not suggesting abolishing a grading system, we want to see students focus on learning and not on classifying themselves by letters. We want professors to see us as thinkers and learners, not boxers fighting for a prize that means nothing because you can't use it.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters and commentaries will be considered for publication only if accompanied with the aforementioned specifications.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be typed (double spaced) or saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is 9 a.m. the Monday before publication.



Drunk drivers get off much too easily

DEVIN KIRCH

College Press Exchange

We Americans have reached a new low in identifying those who have true character. Apparently, all we expect of elected officials caught breaking the law is that they tell us the truth. Then, no matter how severely they might have endangered innocent lives, we will forgive and tell them how honorable we think they are.

This unsettling fact was proven again earlier this month when Colorado House Speaker Russell George admitted to being caught drinking and driving. In reply to his admission, he received a standing ovation from his fellow lawmakers.

George is a four-term Republican who was elected speaker just last month. He was pulled over at 1:52 a.m. on Jan. 29 while heading home from a party. A Douglas County Sheriff noticed that George's 1996 Pontiac Bonneville was weaving on the road.

A police report stated that George had bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. After failing a roadside sobriety test, he was booked at the county jail for investigation of driving under the influence. After spending less than an hour in jail, he was released on \$1,000 bond.

Willingness to forgive George came almost immediately from Republicans and Democrats alike.

"It shows true character in someone when they make a mistake, and they're willing to stand up and admit to it," said House Majority leader Doug Dean.

"The American people's capacity to forgive is infinite for people who take responsibility for their actions," said Democrat Ken Gordon, the House Minority leader.

If DUIs were not public record, it's doubtful George would have been so quick to confess his crime. Rather than his confession being evidence of great character, he likely confessed to cause the least amount of harm to his public image. He knew word of his arrest would quickly reach the media, whether or not he personally told the public.

Unfortunately, lying is what we expect from our elected leaders. In our pathetic desire to find the truth, we are willing to forgive politicians for doing basically anything, as long as they confess their mistakes to us.

George's admission came at a difficult time of the year for me. Feb. 5 was the second year anniversary of the death of my friend Kendra, who was killed in a drinking and driving accident.

Kendra, who was a freshman in college, was returning to her dorm at Colorado State University after attending a 21st birthday party. Kendra's friend Jenn was driving the two girls home. Jenn's car was on the wrong side of the highway and it hit a semi head-on. Both girls were burned beyond recognition. Dental records were needed in order to identify their bodies.

Until someone close to me died of this senseless crime, I never realized what a truly evil act drinking and driving is. You are endangering the lives of every one on the road.

College students have the mentality that it will not happen to them. Fortunately for George, his lack of judgment didn't cost him his life or the lives of any others. According to a recent survey by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, every 32 minutes someone will die in an alcohol-related traffic accident in the United States. This equates to approximately 315 deaths per week, which is the equivalent to two jetliners crashing each week.

The People Speak

Question of the Week:

If you could pick one song to sum up your college experience so far, which would it be?

**Susan Trippel**

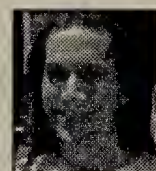
junior, biology

"'Everybody Wants To Rule the World' by Tears for Fears."

Dan Frailich

junior, radio/TV

"Is there a 'Life Sucks' song?"

**John Steger**

junior, psychology

"'Rock 'n' Roll All Night and Party Everyday' by KISS, because that's who I am and that's what I do."

**Aja Palmer**

sophomore, RHIT

"'It's A Hard Knock Life' by Jay-Z, because school is definitely a hard knock."

**Jennifer Adame**

junior, secondary education

"'I Will Survive' by Gloria Gaynor because I know I'll make it through."



Join The Chronicle.

989-2547

Ask for Lauren or Marti

Regardless of fashion, backpacks cause pain

Carrying a backpack daily causes gradual strain on the lower back for college students

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (CPX) - Ever stopped to consider that your backpack might have something to do with your backache?

Bags might come in an array of hip styles and colors, but with the number of back injuries rising in schools and on college campuses, physicians and chiropractors say it's important for students to consider function over form.

In 1997, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that more than 240 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for back pain related to their backpacks and book bags.

More common is the gradual emergence of pain that comes after years of putting undue stress and strain on the lower back - a

predicament many college students report they now face.

Chas Gaertner, a chiropractor who has set up shop near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, estimates that most of his patients are much younger than the typical crowd hanging out in chiropractic offices. He said about 80 percent of his patients are either in their teens or 20s.

Their troubles are mostly posture related, Gaertner said. He blames many of the ailments he treats on book bags - especially those that are overloaded.

"I've weighed bookbags that are 35-40 pounds," he said.

Laura Stoebr, a sophomore journalism major at UNC, schleps around on her small frame a bag that weighs at least 20 pounds. Aside from books, she also packs chapstick, a

lighter, a sewing kit and plenty of gum and tissues.

"I have terrible posture, and the book bag doesn't help," she said.

Zach Finley, a first-year law student at Harvard University, knows her pain.

"Some days I have three classes, and I have to carry six books and some binders," he said.

Gaertner said a properly packed bag equals between 10 percent and 20 percent of its carrier's weight.

"They develop posture where they hold their head like a turtle or a vulture," he said.

Because bookbags are such an integral part of just about every student's day, The American Academy of Pediatrics offers pointers on how to use them:

- Distribute your load by using all of a bag's compartments. Place heavier books and items closest to the back, putting the center of



Photo provided College Press Exchange

Students at the University of Texas at Austin walk to class with bookbags. Health care professionals say a properly packed bag equals ten to twenty percent of its carriers weight.

gravity nearest the pelvis.

- Tighten shoulder straps to draw the pack as close to the body as is comfortable.

- Pick a pack that has padding in the straps.

- Sling bags with one long shoulder strap across the chest to better distribute weight. Students carrying traditional backpacks should use both shoulder straps to ease the load.

Lewinsky ready to face the media with new book and TV interviews

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Get ready for "the full Monica."

President Clinton's ex-mistress is set to take the media by storm next week when she goes public in two emotional in-depth interviews and a tell-all book.

"It puts an exclamation point to this year," said ABC's Barbara Walters, who announced Monday that her much-hyped two-hour interview will air March 3, the last day of the February sweeps.

"You see the President in a way I'm not sure you've seen him before," Walters said.

Getting ready to hawk her book, "Monica's Story," which comes out next week, Lewinsky hired heavyweight public relations adviser John Scanlon.

"She's an extremely impressive young woman. She's her own best asset," Scanlon said.

Walters and Britain's Channel 4 anchor Jon Snow sat down separately with Lewinsky over the weekend. Snow's interview will air March 4 in Britain and 25 other countries.

"She is brilliant, and very moving, in detailing how effectively she was raped by the American Constitution," Snow said at a London news conference.

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who still controls Lewinsky's public statements through the

"She is brilliant, and very moving, in detailing how effectively she was raped by the American Constitution"

Jon Snow, news anchor

immunity agreement she signed, allowed her to talk about everything except one issue - his treatment of her, which is under investigation by the Justice Department, said Walters and Snow.

Otherwise, Snow said, his interview reveals "the full Monica."

Sources familiar with the deal confirmed that Channel 4 - which runs a highly respected news

operation and normally does not pay for stories - gave Lewinsky about \$660,000 for the sit-down.

Walters, who paid nothing outright, said the 25-year-old ex-White House intern became "teary" but did not weep during her three-hour interview at ABC studios Saturday.

Lewinsky told Walters the "roughest" question she was asked by the grand jury was why she always went for married men.

"This was not a puff piece, this was not a huggy-kissy piece," Walters said.

Walters said Lewinsky "looked very striking in appearance, very attractive. ... She is extremely articulate. This is not a Valley Girl."

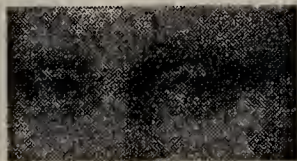


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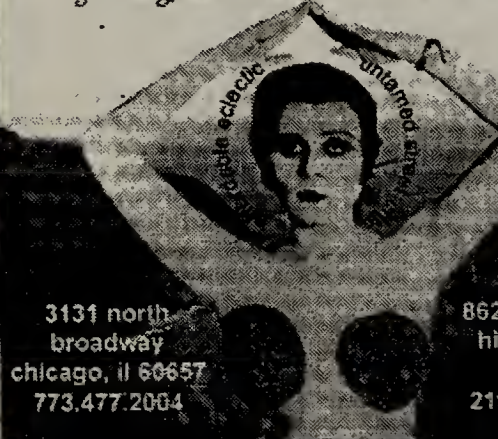
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'SPACE'

RICK PEREGOY
Staff Writer

"Office Space" is a comedy starring Ron Livingston (*Swingers*) as Peter Givens, a frustrated poor soul who's convinced that nobody in the world has a hard life like he does.

Givens works for "Innitec," which is a huge company run by way too many overbearing, overly oppressing, upper management, who all wear their underwear way too tight.

The movie is written and directed by Mike Judge of "Beavis and Butthead" fame. One of the main bosses at Innitec is Lumbergh, played by Gary Cole. The character is borrowed from the camp counselor



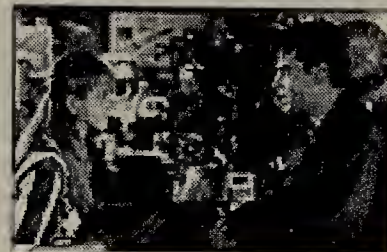
Creator of 'Beavis and Butthead' imagines what one man can do to save his soul - get fired

After the help of a hypnotist who dies while Givens goes into a trance-like state, the character is transformed into a person who doesn't have a care in the world, especially, for his job. Givens is interviewed by "the two Bobs," who are advisors for Innitec. He points out the company's problems in a carefree-who-could-give-a-damn manner. The

"Bobs" like Givens and actually promote him causing Lumbergh a great deal of frustration.

the "Bobs" are in the process of downsizing Innitec. This is when Givens learns that Samir and Michael are on the corporate chopping block.

Givens leads them into a scheme of scamming money from Innitec, putting a virus in the company's system, an idea first jokingly contrived by the computer wiz Michael.



Jennifer Aniston and 'Swingers' Ron Livingston star in 'Office Space'.

Soon, the three of them are way too wealthy.

This is an anything can happen, comedy.

"Office Space" has its moments. I

would recommend this movie for its overall entertainment values.

It's not a great movie, but in the words of Beavis, "It doesn't suck!"

If I had to give "Office Space" either thumbs up or thumbs down, I'd look like a hitchhiker.

Spring films range from original ideas to reminders of cinema's best

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

BLAST FROM THE PAST. This time-warp comedy shows what happens when a young man born in a bomb shelter in 1962 finally emerges in the '90s outside world. Adam (Brendan Fraser) remained hidden for so long because his parents — brilliant-but-wacky inventor Calvin (Christopher Walken) and his devoted wife, Helen (Sissy Spacek) — thought Los Angeles had been nuked soon after they disappeared into their shelter during the Cuban Missile Crisis. After 35 years, they figure the radiation has dissipated enough for Adam to explore the surface. Adam's mission is to return to the shelter with more years' worth of provisions and a wife. While trying to cash in some old baseball cards, he meets a kind young woman (Alicia Silverstone) who can't resist helping him. She's even willing to help him find a mate, though you know all along where their relationship is headed. Silverstone is easy to root for. But the entire movie seems to be straining and too often ignores what should be Adam's most rudimentary reactions to modern life. PG-13. 1-1/2 stars — M.C..



Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser in 'Blast from the Past'.

JAWBREAKER. Teen flicks like "Carrie," "Heathers," "Pretty in Pink" and "Rock 'n' Roll High School" are loopy enough that a parody/tribute seems redundant, but that didn't stop 26-year-old writer and director Darren Stein, whose

"Jawbreaker" is a fluorescent black comedy that's about as useful as a 1999 version of Pong. This stylish but empty movie revels in the mean-spirited behavior of its anti-hero, Courtney Shayne



From left: Julie Benz, Rebecca Gayheart, and Rose McGowan star in 'Jawbreaker'.

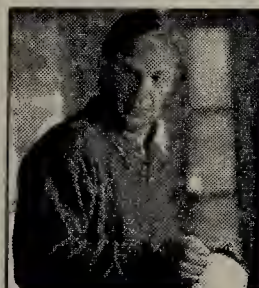
(Rose McGowan), who employs unseemly means in leading her girlfriends to cover up the accidental death of a clique-mate. Yet the movie also feels the inexplicable need to hammer home that it really, truly disapproves of that nasty high-school queen. The result is the cinematic equivalent of a jawbreaker with a gooey center and sour aftertaste. R. 1-1/2 stars — M.C..

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE. This is a movie that wants us to believe true love doesn't die; it just gets recycled. Based on Nicholas Sparks' soapy best seller and starring Kevin Costner and Robin Wright Penn as the bottle-crossed lovers, it's a picture made with high visual style and some emotional intensity, with gorgeous scenery, good actors and obviously good intentions. But in this weepy tale of lovers who meet when she finds his love letter in a bottle in the ocean, there's no real heart beating beneath the beautiful flesh. Without Paul Newman — who plays Costner's dad, a sardonic old ex-drunk wise-cracking his way through the movie — the whole thing might collapse into seductive nonsense, with feeble echoes of "The Bridges of Madison County." PG-13. 2 stars — M.W..



Christopher Lloyd in the remake of 'My Favorite Martian'.

update (or, more accurately, obliterate) the old Walston and Bixby roles. So obnoxious, so aggressively unfunny,



Kevin Costner returns in 'Message in a Bottle'.

so witlessly crude and horribly written and directed, "My Favorite Martian" is really in a class by itself. PG. 1/2 star — M.W..

OCTOBER SKY. This film is based on the fascinating real-life story of ex-NASA engineer Homer Hickam and the home-made rocket launches he and his buddies conducted in the late '50s in their small West Virginia coal mining hometown, Coalwood. Hickam recounted these adventures in a moving 1998 literary memoir, "Rocket Boys," but the movie version, I think, is better. It's a stunningly well-visualized and well-acted memory piece: heartfelt and evocative, touchingly realized by director Joe Johnston. You can feel how much Johnston responds to this material, how much care he's lavished on bringing Homer's dreams back to life. Though some viewers may dismiss "October Sky" as all-American inspirational schmaltz with a soupçon of Norman Rockwell, it struck a chord in me and will do the same, I suspect, for many others. PG. 3-1/2 stars — M.W..



Newcomer Jake Gyllenhaal in 'October Sky'.

THE 24 HOUR WOMAN. Nancy Savoca's new film deserves credit for addressing the day-to-day challenges facing women who try to balance a career and child-rearing, yet the movie is so gee-whizzy you'd think pregnancy were some sort of new phenomenon. The movie follows a hyper-active TV producer named Grace (Rosie Perez) whose New York morning show decides to follow her pregnancy on camera through its various stages. The assumption seems to be that Grace's pregnancy and subsequent baby-raising days are inherently interesting because she's a TV producer, even though her show is insipid and her choices seem trivial next to women trying to raise children while struggling to make ends meet in less glamorous jobs. "The 24 Hour Woman" takes a daytime-TV view of such pressures, which must inevitably lead to a gun-wielding crack-up. R. 2 stars — M.C..



Rosie Perez stars in 'The 24 Hour Woman'.

Writer offers views on why finding love should be treated just like a business deal

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

I am accepting applications for a lover. I realize this is a strange tactic, but most of my meaningful relationships have sprung from bizarre acts of desperation.

In high school, my weekends were bare until I became the first student to place a personal ad in the school paper. When I needed a date to prom, I addressed an all-school assembly with my phone number draped across my chest. It may seem like shameless self-exploitation, but it saved me from encountering one iota of face-to-face rejection.

When dating becomes more bureaucratic, the perils of collegiate courtship will vanish. No more awkward gestures, drunken fondles, enigmatic e-mail or other ritualistic stuff.

Imagine being able to walk up to your ideal companion and casually ask, "Are you accepting applications?"

List your special talents, answer a few essay questions, attach recommendations

from previous employers, and you're well on your way to success.

Maybe you'll be called back for an interview. Maybe not. Either way, it's no big deal. There are many openings available.

Before I continue with the details of the application process, here's a short biography of myself, graciously contributed by my mother. I edited out the extended sections where she raves about my cute little tushie.

She writes, "Josh was a big surprise."

So there you have it! I bet legions of loyal readers can feel their juices starting to flow.

After all, everyone loves a surprise! Yippee!

If you've made it this far, you must be serious about applying — good for you..

Now let's get down to business. A lover is not a joking matter. Should you choose to accept this position, a slew of contractual obligations awaits.

First on this list of obligations: Always be powerful. Actually, this is the only thing on the list. If you are truly powerful, you will promptly tell me where to stick my so-called obligations. Come forth a demanding vixen, and I will spit shine your stiletto heels. I assure you that I am sick and tired of being the man.

Because these essay questions I've prepared for you are deceptively simple, please pay them great heed.

Out of the following choices, who is your ideal mate, and why?

- A: Chancellor Robert Hemenway
- B: A sweaty, ravished Don Knotts
- C: Leeza Gibbons
- D: Hanson

How can we be lovers if we can't be friends? How can we start over when the fighting never ends? Baby, how can we make love if we can't make amends? Tell me how we can be lovers if we can't be, can't be friends? Tell me about the rabbits.

There is no need to include a photograph in your application. A crude sketch will suffice. Be sure to draw your moles — all of them. Moles are the world's most underrated turn-on.

Completed applications are due one week from today.

Applying for lovers would change the world of intimate relations as we know it. Tacky How-to-Get-Some pamphlets would begin teaching the same skills as elite business schools.

Even the dating jargon would change. Marriages would become mergers, break-ups will be layoffs, sex would be a business lunch and getting downsized would carry kinky implications.

You're only young once, so how about joining me in a deliciously strategic alliance?

When dating becomes more democratic, the perils of collegiate courtship will vanish. No more awkward gestures, drunken fondles, enigmatic e-mails or other ritualistic stuff.

Horoscopes

For the week of March 1



Aries (March 21-April 19). You're forced to be perfect on Monday and Tuesday. Just do

it, don't argue. By Wednesday, your mind will be sharper, but don't hurt anyone with it. An argument Tuesday can lead to a new way by Wednesday. Ask a friend to pitch in on Thursday. The competition keeps you inspired on Friday. Invest in love over the weekend, with a commitment.



Taurus (April 20-May 20). Build a structure to protect someone or something you love the first part of

this week. It'll be easier then. Around Wednesday, other people's demands start dominating your day. You won't have much time off until Friday. A meeting that night ends in separation, but the bond you've been wanting should develop this weekend.



Gemini (May 21-June 21). There's a tug of war going on Monday and Tuesday. Stay on the sidelines.

Don't get in the middle. Your team or committee should start communicating more after Tuesday, but watch out. They may launch with their pet peeves

about each other. Controversy rages through Friday, but don't you speak too freely. A thoughtless remark could cause jealousy or hurt feelings, especially over the weekend.

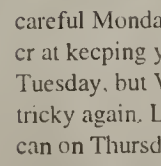


Cancer (June 22-July 22). Study what you need to know on Monday and Tuesday. It'll be easier to remember then. On Wednesday, you'll start running into delays and difficulties, even if you're watching where you're going. Other people keep changing their minds, that's why. Friday starts with promise and ends up with a tough choice. Go toward the love and your weekend should be marvelous.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You could lose a windfall just as quickly as you gained it if you're not careful Monday. You'll be luckier at keeping your resources Tuesday, but Wednesday is tricky again. Learn as fast as you can on Thursday and Friday, so when conditions stabilize over the weekend you'll be where you want to stay.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're forceful and dynamic on Monday and



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep the secrets you hear Monday and Tuesday. Add new developments that come to light Wednesday, and you'll know which way to go Thursday. It's good to be generous, but don't give away the store on Friday. An extra job could bring much appreciated income over the weekend.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Confusion reigns on Monday and Tuesday. Those are your best days to propose a new idea. Your friends are on your side, especially Wednesday through Friday, so rely on their support. Get rid of old stuff over the weekend. You'll be in the mood to toss things out.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your practical common sense saves the day Monday. Lead others through the confusion Tuesday by keeping the goal in mind. The action is even more intense from Wednesday through Friday. A cautious friend helps you make good choices. Relax with friends over the weekend. Let somebody else set the agenda.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't gamble on Monday or Tuesday, not even with other people's money. On Wednesday, you're a little luckier, but it's with relationships. Even then, you might learn by almost losing something. Listen and learn on Thursday and Friday, even if you think you already know it all, and you'll do much better on the pop quiz



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). An adversarial relationship could develop between you and a neat freak the first part of this week. Don't try to argue with one who's always right. Just accept the coaching. It's cheaper. Speaking of money, stash away as much as possible Thursday and Friday, so you'll have enough to go for a jaunt over the weekend. The opportunity will show up, so if you've got the cash, you're all set. If You're Having a Birthday This Week ...

Just answer the tough questions honestly and you should do fine.



Born March 1: Focus on keeping your partner happy this year, and your whole life will work. March 2: Another can provide just what you need this year, and it might be supportive coaching. March 3: Pooling resources with a partner brings security this year. March 4: Learn to budget this year and grow rich! March 5: You can make your future secure this year, by devising a financial plan and sticking to it. March 6: You've been cooped up long enough! Make your break for distant shores this year. March 7: Expand your horizons this year, by heeding the call of the wild.

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CCAC's strong teams, talented players make tourney worth watching

With a home court advantage and a first round bye, the Lady Lakers have a good shot at a conference title this season

J.B. LYLES
Staff Writer

The table is set for dinner, now let's see who gets dessert. The Chicago Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Tournament is all set and the teams are now seeded.

The Purdue Calumet Lady Lakers (23-5 overall, 9-1 conference) and the IU-South Bend Lady Titans (17-7, 9-1) share the conference title for a second year in a row. The only thing that has changed is that the Lady Lakers have the advantage over the Lady Titans, giving PUC the all important number one seed and home court advantage throughout the playoffs as well as a first round bye.

The Lady Titans take the number two seed, meaning they will get a bye and host a semi-final game over at St. Mary's College in South Bend. Both teams will not play a game until Thursday.

The remaining four teams have a combined overall record of 26-76. Olivet Nazarene Lady Tigers (10-20, 6-4) will be the number three seed and host a preliminary round against the number six seed Dominican Lady Stars (5-20, 1-9) on Tuesday in Kankakee. While number four seed St. Francis Lady Saints (5-20, 3-7) will host the number five seed Illinois Tech Lady Scarlet Hawks (6-16, 2-8) in Joliet also on Tuesday.

Whoever wins Thursday's semi-final games will play in the CCAC Finals set for Saturday. If Purdue Calumet loses in the semi-finals, they still have a chance to win it all, but they have to travel to the winner of the tournament to decide it all.

#1 PURDUE CALUMET LADY LAKERS

The Lady Lakers won outright or shared the CCAC championship three out of the last four

years. They are known to keep their opponents in check with a defensive average of 54.9 points per game. The turn for the positive was after that 43 point beating the team took at Valparaiso. After that, they had a head hold on teams the rest of the way until the St. Valentine's Massacre II at IU-South Bend. Now after beating up on the conference, they earned that all important home court advantage unlike last year. Now it's their tournament to win.

Positives: Defense and the Post Players. The Lady Lakers are currently ranked fourth in the nation in defense. The post players of

Jennifer Cain and Rita Harper have been tearing it up as of late. Rita is in the top ten in scoring (2), rebounds (4), blocks (3), field goal (2) and free throw (4) percentages in the conference. Her counterpart is number one in rebounds and free throw percentages, fourth in steals and fifth in blocks.

Players to Watch: Harper and Brea Gates. Harper must be involved throughout the playoffs and she must be able to get everybody involved overall.

#2 INDIANA-SOUTH BEND LADY TITANS

The Lady Titans can say the same thing about the CCAC championships like the Lady Lakers. Unfortunately for the Titans, they only get to host a semi-final game instead of that all important home court. The Lady Titans started off in the top 25 in the rankings but tough games slipped them off for a while until they reappear in the ratings, just last week only a vote ahead of PUC. The Lady Titans are averaging 76.6 points per game unlike last year's 82.4.

Player to Watch: Aime Burger. She is what makes this team run. She is number one in scoring (19.7) and steals (3.78) in the conference.

#3 OLIVET NAZARENE

LADY TIGERS

After bouncing back from a 9-12 record, the Lady Tigers, under new coach Doug Porter, made giant leaps and bounds to where they are at this moment. If they can play consistently throughout the playoffs, this dark horse team will be putting the hurting on the rest of the conference.

Positives: Kari Gaskill and three-point shooting. The heart of this team is Kari Gaskill, she is in the top ten in scoring and number one in field goal percentage.

Players to Watch: Christina Golden and Diana Wendell. These two tenacious players are a double trouble defensive threat.

#4 ST. FRANCIS LADY SAINTS

St. Francis looked like Illinois Tech from last year. They dropped from 10-14 to 5-20 and to make it worst they had more road games than last season. I guess they never heard of home court advantage. However, the Saints are a tough physical team with the ability to make you want to play your best.

Positives: Defensive Rebounding and Diane Kowall. The Lady Saints are number one when it comes to the boards defensively.

Player to Watch: Kayla Kleckner.

#5 ILLINOIS TECH LADY SCARLET HAWKS

They only received one conference and three overall wins last season. This year they double both totals and escape being the cellar team. IIT has capabilities to score and do what it takes to win.

Player to Watch: Julie Kafka & Beth Gawlinski.

#6 DOMINICAN LADY STARS

Could things get worse for this team? They demoted the head coach and promoted the first assistant coach.

They lost their center and, to add insult to injury, they are last in field goal and three point shooting.

Positives: Mary Ellen O'Grady and Defense. She is leading the team in steals and second in scoring. The Stars are second in defensive average (66.7) behind the Lakers.

Player to Watch: CeCe Mische.

Rodman signs with the Los Angeles Lakers

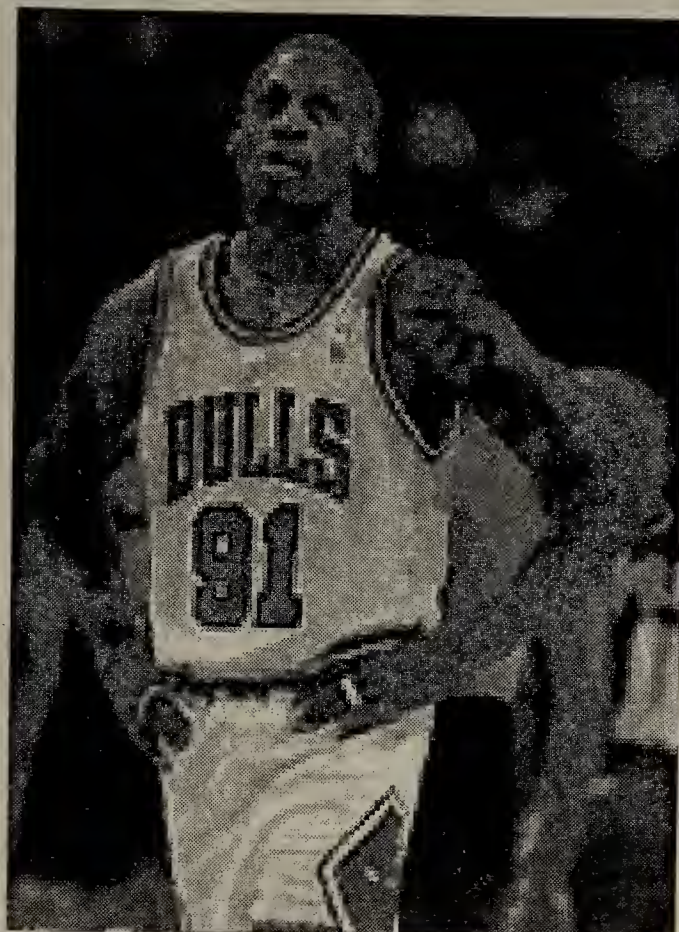


Photo provided

Former Bulls power forward Dennis Rodman, who signed a one-year deal with the Lakers Tuesday night, will wear uniform #73. The seven is for the consecutive rebounding titles, while the three is for the trio of consecutive championships with the Bulls.



Fast Break

A brief look at PUC sports

LADY LAKERS WIN OVER LADY STARS LEADS TO TITLE

The Lady Lakers ended their regular season campaign with a 61-39 win over the Dominican Lady Stars (5-20, 1-9 CCAC).

The win means they will share the regular season title with the IU-South Bend Titans and earn home court throughout the playoffs.

The Lady Lakers put four players in double digits as Rita Harper led all scores with 17 points. Brea Gates added on 16, while Renee Boryla tacked on 12. Jennifer Cain had her third double-double of the year putting up 13 points and grabbing a game high 10

rebounds.

The next game for the Lady Lakers will be Thursday.

LAKERS LOSE GROUND IN CONFERENCE RACE

The PUC Lakers (11-19, 5-6 CCAC) fall into a three way tie for third place with a 77-62 loss to conference leader Olivet Nazarene (22-8, 9-3).

Damon Evans led the scoring with 16 points, Eric Culp scored 14, Robert Battle had eight, Bob Delano with six and Brian Anton rounded out the scoring with five.

The Lakers could host a playoff game on Tuesday.

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